

1880=1881.



THIS season saw the Club on a sounder footing. A strong committee was elected ; W. D. Phillips was again captain, and W. H. Treatt filled the office of Hon. Secretary for the first time.

The membership fees came to £49 9s., and the gate receipts to £80 19s. 9d., it being a recognised thing to charge gate money.

I give a copy of the balance sheet which will shew some interesting comparisons with the balance sheets of the present day.

A second fifteen was also organised, Mr. A. J. Evans being captain.

The fixture list contained some new clubs, the most noted being Moseley Harriers, afterwards the Moseley Football Club, the first match being played at Birmingham and ending in a draw. The following players took part :—backs, A. Hybart, F. Sadler ; threequarter backs, J. Bridie, W. D. Phillips ; half-backs, P. K. Heard, W. B. Norton ; forwards, B. E. Girling, R. Trotter, W. H. Treatt, J. C. Smith, E. D. Thomas, A. J. Evans, F. Vyvyan, B. B. Mann, and Tom Williams. After the match the teams dined at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, and this was the first of many excellent dinners partaken of by both teams after their annual matches.

Another new fixture was against a team called the Irish Wanderers, which was, strangely as it may appear, played at Newport. The Cardiff team turned up six men short, and had to call in the assistance of six of the Second XV., who happened to be going to Newport to play Maindee.

The ground was in a terribly bad condition from the then very heavy recent rains, but the match turned out a good and an exciting one, the forward play of the Irishmen being a great feature.

The Club also achieved the distinction of winning the South Wales Challenge Cup, the final being played against Llanelly at Llanelly. The time occupied in playing this match was 1 hour 46 minutes, as at the end of the proper time no score had been made by either side, and an extra ten minutes each way was ordered to

be played. The first ten minutes produced no score, but four minutes before the second ten minutes P. K. Heard scored a try, whereupon the crowd got on to the field and rendered further play impossible, including the kick at goal. On Cardiff's return home, they were met at the station by a band and a huge crowd, and the players were carried shoulder high to the Queen's Hotel, where W. D. Phillips addressed them, this being probably the first of the many speeches made by him. As this was the first and only occasion on which Cardiff has won the South Wales Challenge Cup, the full report of the match is inserted hereunder.

THE FINAL TIE :
CARDIFF v. LLANELLY.

On Saturday last (Mar. 12th, 1881) the final tie for the South Wales Challenge Cup was played at Neath, between the clubs of Cardiff and Llanelly. The contest is always an occasion of interest to the votaries of football, and as the two successful teams of this year had never before met, and their relative strength, therefore, not known, the interest taken in the game was intensified. Upwards of 1,500 persons assembled on the field, and for the time being every competitor was a hero, as well as an object of unpleasant curiosity to the unsophisticated mob. The special trains from Newport on the east, and Llanelly on the west, were crowded, and both clubs had a large following of admirers, who were equally sanguine of victory, and did not hesitate to uphold their conviction by heavy odds. At the same time no one supposed that the match would be of a one-sided character, and many went even so far as to predict a drawn game. The teams were composed as follows :—

CARDIFF—

Backs : H. F. D. Sewell and A. Hybart.

Three-quarter-backs : W. D. Phillips (Capt.), and W. B. Norton.

Half-backs : P. K. Heard and J. V. Davies.

Forwards : B. B. Mann, B. E. Girling, R. Trotter, W. H. Treatt, J. S. Smith, J. A. Jones, E. D. Thomas, A. J. Evans, and T. Williams.

LLANELLY—

Back : R. Evans.

Three-quarter-backs : F. Powell and H. Bowen.

Half-backs : G. Watkeys and W. B. Roderick.

Quarter backs : F. Margrave (Capt.) and J. Lewis.

Forwards : W. Mitchell, H. Mitchell, D. Thomas, A. Catell, T. Pile, T. Jones, R. L. Sails, and D. John.

The Umpires were :—

Cardiff : Mr. H. Shewbrooks, and

Llanelly : Mr. Isaiah Bevan.

The Referee : Mr. S. Clark, Secretary of the South Wales Football Union.

At 3.45 p.m., Sewell kicked off for Cardiff, and the ball was well followed up by the Cardiff forwards, the result being a succession of scrimmages within the Llanelly 25 flag. Catell punted the ball out, but it was returned by Hybart, and kicked in touch by Heard. More tight play followed, and when the ball was dribbled forward by Cardiff, it was returned by Evans. Norton tried to run in, but was collared, and after another scrumage, Lewis made off with the ball. He was tackled by Heard, who kicked the ball in touch, near the 25 flag. Davies next tried to run in, and on being stopped, passed to Norton, who was collared. Several scrimmages ensued, still in Llanelly ground, and Lewis passed to Roderick, who was smartly collared by Heard. From a scrumage, Norton made off with the leather, and when he was collared Llanelly drove their opponents beyond the half-flag. Margrave passed to Roderick, but he was immediately tackled, and more scrimmages ensued, in which the advantage was with Llanelly. Then the Cardiff forwards dribbled into Llanelly territory, but by some smart running and passing the ball was brought well into Cardiff ground, where it was sent to touch near the 25 flag. From a scrumage Catell tried to run in, and was collared. When the ball was thrown from touch, the Cardiffians gained a few yards, and Davies passed to Hybart, who was collared by Roderick when in the act of touching-down in self-defence. A maul in goal took place, in which Roderick proved the victor, but the referee decided that the ball had before been touched down by Hybart. Sewell kicked out, and from a scrumage Roderick made off with the ball. He was collared and the Cardiff forwards dribbled into the Llanelly 25, where more tight play ensued. Williams tried to run in, but was stopped, and immediately afterwards Davies passed to Phillips, who made a plucky attempt to get behind the goal-line. From a scrumage Norton made off, but was tackled; then Phillips got the ball, and, evading several pursuers, was not secured until near the goal-line. Llanelly worked hard on the defensive, and the danger was averted by a clever run by Powell. Sewell was on the alert, and Powell tried a drop, which was a failure, the ball going in touch near the 25 flag. When thrown out it was dribbled into neutral ground by Watkeys, and some loose play followed without any advantage to either side. Then Heard made a fair catch, and when kicked from place Powell returned the ball. Norton made off with it, but was collared, and after a scrumage Heard punted in touch in Llanelly territory. Another scrumage took place, from which Davies made a drop, which landed the ball in touch near the 25 flag. When thrown out, Jones passed to Phillips, who tried to drop goal. The ball went wide of the posts, and Evans touched down in self-defence. When kicked out, the ball was caught by Sewell, who made his mark. The free kick sent the ball in touch well in Llanelly ground, and half-time was then called.

Sides were changed, and play resumed, Roderick kicking off for Llanelly. Sewell tried to run, but was collared in the Cardiff 25, where a scrumage took place. From the scrumage Cardiff dribbled into Llanelly ground, where the ball was driven in touch. When thrown out, Heard passed to Davies, who was collared, but from a

subsequent scrum the ball was passed in succession to Phillips, Norton and Sewell. Sewell was tackled near the Cardiff 25 flag, and from the scrum Heard passed to Treatt, who ran as far as the half flag. Cardiff gained a few more yards, when the leather was passed to Lewis, who tried to run, and was collared in neutral ground. Then Pile dribbled the ball into Cardiff territory, and a scrum ensued near the 25 flag. The Cardiff forwards drove their opponents back, and Heard passed to Norton, who was collared. In the scrum Cardiff gained ground, but the ball was dropped by Bowen within a few yards from goal. Hybart passed to Sewell, but he was tackled, and after some loose play, Roderick made an almost successful effort to run in. When he was collared a scrum took place, from which Davies secured the ball, and punted it out in excellent style. It was returned by Evans, and caught by Hybart, who made his mark, and from place kicked it in touch in neutral ground. From scrum Davies passed to Phillips, who punted in touch in Llanelly ground. Some more tight play followed, then Powell dropped, but the ball was returned by Sewell. Roderick tried to run, and when he was collared, the Cardiffians forced their opponents within the 25. When the ball was thrown out, several attempts were made to run in, and ultimately Heard, to all appearances, accomplished this feat. The referee, however, decided against him, and the ball was brought back. Out of a scrum Margrave secured the leather, and amid great excitement got well away before any attempt was made to stop his progress. Heard and Hybart set off in pursuit, and the latter shoved the Llanelly captain into touch when a few yards below the half flag. From a scrum Roderick got the ball, and again it was thought the attempt to run in would be successful. He passed several men, and was not collared by Hybart until well in the Cardiff 25. It was alleged that Roderick got the ball off hand, but the referee decided in his favour. The Cardiffians defended their goal very vigorously, and from a scrum at the front of the posts Sewell made a drop, from which Powell made a fair catch at a point near the half flag. The place kick was a failure, and Sewell touched down in self-defence. Directly afterwards Watkeys and Margrave successfully made off with the ball, but were both collared. Then Norton tried to run which brought play into Llanelly ground, where a scrum was going on when time was called. The result was, therefore, a draw, and after a consultation it was agreed to play for another ten minutes each way. Sewell kicked off for Cardiff, and the ball was driven in touch by Watkeys near the 25 flag. After some smart loose play, the Cardiffians forced their opponents back, and Norton tried to run in but was collared. A scrum took place close to the Llanelly goal, and Heard made a clever attempt to get behind the posts. When collared he passed to Phillips, who struggled hard to force a passage. He failed, and another scrum ensued, from which the Cardiff captain secured the leather and ran in. It was generally thought that he had gained a try, but the referee decided that the touch-down was on the goal-line, and not in goal. When thrown out, the ball was dribbled by the Cardiffians to the front of the Llanelly posts, where some more tight play took place. Then Norton secured the leather and tried to drop goal, but failed, and

another scrimmage ensued close to the goal-line. Phillips tried to run in, and was again almost successful. From the scrimmage Jones punted the ball almost into Bowen's hands, and he immediately touched down in self-defence. When the ball was kicked out it was returned by Hybart and Sewell, and Norton made a fair catch near the half flag. The place kick by Sewell was magnificent, but the distance was too great for goal, and the ball was punted by Evans into touch. Half-time was then called, and sides were changed. Roderick kicked off, and the ball on being returned by Phillips was secured by Margrave, who tried to run in. He was tackled by Phillips and the ball was driven in touch midway between the Cardiff goal-line and 25 flag. The Cardiffians made a splendid stand, and succeeded in forcing their opponents well into their own ground. From a scrimmage Heard made off with the leather, and was only collared by Evans when within about a yard from the goal line. The scrimmage which followed was watched with intense excitement, but only a few seconds elapsed before Heard again secured the leather, and, followed by Roderick, made another plucky attempt to run in. This time he was successful, and when the Llanelly men and their supporters saw their defeat a scene of great confusion ensued. The crowd broke into the field, and on Phillips bringing out the ball for the kick at goal he was immediately seized by several members of the Llanelly team, and the ball forced from him. The Llanelly men aver he did not "touch-down," but he certainly made his mark on the goal-line, which is all that is necessary according to the Rugby Union rules. Mitchell, one of the Llanelly players, would not give up the ball, and so, under the circumstances, the try for goal could not be made, but the game was of course given in favour of Cardiff, and on the shoulders of two of his admirers Heard was carried in triumph from the field. A number of roughs then began to jostle the Cardiff Umpire, but the police interfered, and ultimately his friends congregated, and three hearty cheers were given in his favour.

A glance at the names will reveal the fact that Saunders was no longer playing, and that Tom Williams, of the Welsh Football Union, made his first appearance for Cardiff.

Another name missing from the list is that of Alec Duncan, who had taken up the position of umpire, which position he filled for some years. He was one of the best supporters of the Club, and was ever ready to financially assist the Treasurer when there were no Club funds in hand. He also had a greater hand than anyone else in getting the Welsh Football Union on its feet; as a member of its match committee, and as one of the consultative committee, he had a big hand in establishing the International Board, of which he was the Welsh representative. He was also a strong advocate of the four three-quarter style, and after witnessing its many triumphs with the Cardiff Club, he was the direct means of introducing it into International matches. It was argued against him that Wales would be inviting defeat if they played a forward short, but Alec Duncan maintained that the eight Cardiff

List of Officers.

Season 1880=1881.



Committee :

B. E. GIRLING, J. G. STOTHERT,
P. K. HEARD, E. D. THOMAS,
W. PERCH.

Match Committee :

B. E. GIRLING, B. B. MANN,
P. K. HEARD.

Captain : W. D. PHILLIPS.

Vice-Captain : B. B. MANN.

Captain Second XV. : A. J. EVANS.

Hon. Secretary : W. H. TREATT.



Names and Positions of those who played during the Season.



Full-backs : J. G. Stothert, A. Hybart, A. R. McDonald, F. Sadler, H. F. D. Sewell.

Three-quarter-backs : W. D. Phillips, W. H. Treatt, J. Bridie, W. B. Norton.

Half-backs : F. Perch, W. Davies, P. K. Heard, W. B. Norton, L. Watkins, J. V. Davies, C. Branfill.

Quarter-backs : W. B. Norton, J. V. Davies, P. K. Heard.

Forwards : B. E. Girling, E. D. Thomas, F. Vyvyan, W. Thomas, H. J. Simpson,
T. J. Hinton, R. Leybourne, A. Evans, W. P. Phillips, G. Thomas, E.
Thomas, J. S. Smith, R. Trotter, T. Rees, T. Thomas, A. J. Evans,
W. J. Thomas, Tom Williams, J. A. Jones.

Record, Season 1880-1881.

DATE	OPPONENTS	RESULT	WHERE PLAYED	FOR				AGAINST			
				Goals	Tries	Touches down	Touches in Goal	Goals	Tries	Touches down	Touches in Goal
1880.											
Oct. 23	Merthyr .. ..	.. won	H	†3	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nov. 13	Irish Wanderers ..	.. lost	Newport	—	—	3	—	—	1	2	—
„ 20	Neath .. ..	.. —	H	Postponed to Feb. 26th.							
Dec. 4	Ironsides .. ..	.. won	H	7	5	11	—	—	—	—	—
„ 11	Moseley Harriers ..	.. drawn	A	—	1	3	—	—	1	4	—
„ 18	Newport (Cup) ..	.. won	A	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—
1881.											
Jan. 1	United Valleys (Rhondda)	won	H	—	1	6	—	—	—	1	—
„ 8	Newport .. ..	.. Postponed for	S. Wales and Glo'ster								
„ 15	Westbury Park ..	.. Postponed (frost)									
„ 22	Merthyr .. ..	.. Postponed (frost)									
„ 29	Swansea .. ..	.. Postponed (frost)									
Feb. 12	Pontypridd (Cup)	.. won	H	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 26	Neath .. ..	.. won	H	1	3	8	—	—	—	—	—
Mar. 5	Moseley .. ..	.. Abandoned									
„ 12	Llanelly (Cup) ..	.. won	A	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 26	Newport .. ..	.. lost	H	—	1	2	—	2	1	2	—
				12	20	34	—	2	5	11	—

† Dropped Goal. ‡ One disputed.

Played, 10 ; Won, 7 ; Drawn, 1 ; Lost, 2.

Try getters : P. K. Heard, 8 ; B. B. Mann, 1 ; J. G. Stothert, 1 ; E. Rees, 1 ; W. D. Phillips, 5 ; A. J. Evans, 2 ; J. Bridie, 1 ; B. E. Girling, 1 ; R. Trotter, 2 ; W. B. Norton, 1 ; F. Vyvyan, 1 ; J. S. Smith, 1 ; W. P. Phillips, 1 ; A. E. Evans, 1 ; Tom Williams, 2 ; W. H. Treatt, 1.

Dropped Goals : W. D. Phillips, 1 ; A. Hybart, 1.

SOUTH WALES CHALLENGE CUP.

Llanelly v. Cardiff,

MARCH 12th, 1881.



Cardiff Team:

J. A. JONES, J. S. SMITH, H. SHEWBROOKS (*Umpire*), B. B. MANN, TOM WILLIAMS, W. H. TREATT,
W. B. NORTON, P. K. HEARD, W. D. PHILLIPS, C. H. SEWELL, VIPOND DAVIES, A. H. HYBART,
E. D. THOMAS, R. TROTTER, A. J. EVANS.

